

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated 26 February 2003 in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Valette (U.S. Patent No. 2,712,205). Applicant has amended claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 to overcome this rejection. Applicant has amended each independent claim to affirmatively state that the current invention is for a "web" processing machine. As stated in the Application, "web" may be defined as any flexible material ... that is carried on rolls during processing." (Page 4, lines 14-16). The present invention for a web processing machine is believed to be patentable distinguishable over the prior art. The AAPA, as suggested by the Examiner, is for a similar spreader roller as the current Application. However, the AAPA does not include the non-linear end portion of each cylindrical element. The Valette patent is not for a "web" material (i.e. flexible material), but rather for grinding metal strips in a uniform fashion. Applicant does not believe there is any suggestion in the prior art to make the changes to the AAPA found in the current application other than what has been noted in the Applicant's specification, and does not believe the present arrangement is obvious. Furthermore, Applicant does not believe the prior art provides the motivation for the arrangement suggested by the Applicant without the benefit of reading the Applicant's specification.


Independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 have been further amended to include the limitation of the splayed web being intermittently supported by at least one of said plurality of cylindrical elements at its nonlinear profile. This is a drawback in the AAPA in that the gaps between the cylindrical members do not support the web and thereby tend to cause wrinkling of the web. As stated before, Valette is for grinding

sheet metal. (See Valette, col. 1, lines 35-42) It is not apparent to use a grinding machine for the purpose of splaying or smoothing out a flexible web of material. Neither the AAPA nor the Valette reference disclose or suggest this limitation for a splayed web of material.

Accordingly, independent claims 1, 6, 10 and 15 as amended are believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2 - 5, 7 - 9, 11 - 14, and 16 - 18 depend from independent claims believed to be in condition for allowance, and as such, claims 2 - 5, inclusive, 7 - 9, inclusive, 11 - 14, inclusive, and 16 - 18, inclusive are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be removed, that amended claims 1, 6, 10, and 15, original claims 2 - 5, inclusive, 7 - 9, inclusive, 11 - 14, inclusive, and 16 - 18, inclusive, be passed to allowance.

Respectfully Submitted,

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